

Belarus

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Belarus GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Belarus could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. Belarus GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7th, 8th and 9th, conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of the Belarus. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 86.5%, and the overall response rate was 86.5%. A total of 4,522 students participated in the Belarus GYTS.

Prevalence

60.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 69.4%, Girls = 52.0%)
 26.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 31.5%, Girls = 21.4%)
 25.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 31.2%, Girls = 20.8%)
 9.6% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 12.2%, Girls = 6.9%)
 11.5% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 13.4%, Girls = 9.5%)
 31.1% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 38.8%, Girls = 21.0%)
 50.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 43.6%, Girls = 54.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

13.5% usually smoke off school premises during school hours
 47.5% buy cigarettes in a store
 55.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

75.3% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 89.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 86.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
 43.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 60.1% have one or more parents who smoke
 22.8% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

71.4% want to stop smoking
 77.2% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 72.9% have ever received help to stop smoking
 6.1% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

88.9% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 70.2% saw pro media messages on TV
 64.6% saw anti messages vs. 56.2% saw pro messages on billboards
 59.1% saw anti smoking ads vs. 63.8% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
 13.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 5.5% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

78.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 68.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 75.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 26.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 25.9% currently smoke cigarettes; 9.6% currently daily cigarette smokers; 11.5% currently smoke cigars; 50.2% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is high – Over 3 in 4 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Almost 9 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 6 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- Over 4 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 7 in 10 smokers want to quit.
- Over 7 in 8 saw anti-smoking messages on TV and over 5 in 8 saw pro-smoking messages on TV. Almost 6 in 10 saw anti – smoking messages on billboards; almost 6 in 10 saw anti-smoking ads in newspapers
- Almost 8 in 10 were taught in school about dangers of smoking.